

# Small Farms: What you can do

**Groundwater Management Area (GWMA):**

*The purpose of the GWMA is to reduce nitrate contamination concentrations in groundwater below state drinking water standards*

## Poor manure management can threaten drinking water wells

### **Collect, cover and compost:**

Livestock manure can be great fertilizer. It may also be a source of water pollution when exposed to the weather. If you keep livestock, even just one or two, you have a special role to play in protecting drinking water, groundwater aquifers, rivers and streams.

### **What can you do to help?**

- Use downspouts to direct runoff away from manure.
- Pick up manure from farm yards and paddocks at least every three days.
- Store manure under cover in a convenient site that's sheltered from heavy winds.
- When you use a tarp for a cover, secure it well. The tarp should be durable, heavy-weight and large enough to fully cover the pile.
- Work with the local conservation district office to make a plan and learn how to best handle your manure.
- Build a compost system or have an off-site compost facility collect the manure.

Washington's [Dairy Nutrient Management Act](#) requires all licensed dairies to develop and implement [nutrient management plans](#). Large livestock operations must follow confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) regulations to protect water quality.

Good manure management also helps you:

- Prevent parasite re-infestation.
- Keep groundwater clean.
- Build goodwill with your neighbors.
- Support a healthy watershed.

Do your part to keep groundwater safe and clean.

For more information:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/washington\\_waters/farms.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/washington_waters/farms.html)

### GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA



The purpose of the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area is to reduce nitrate contamination where concentrations do not meet drinking water standards.

### GWAC Working Groups

- Data Collection, Characterization, Monitoring
- Education and Public Outreach
- Funding
- Irrigated Agriculture
- Livestock/CAFO
- Regulatory Framework
- Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Municipal

To get involved, call  
(509) 574-2300

More information at:  
[www.yakimacounty.us](http://www.yakimacounty.us)